



Newsbits

- [Arkansas– Bolivia’s Youth Ambassadors Program featured in Partners of the Americas blog.](#)
- [Fascinating read on being an Aids advocate in Bolivia.](#)
- [Who is the new Bolivian President?](#)
- [New app for pinpointing forest fires in Bolivia.](#)
- [Article entitled, “The Challenges of Teaching English in Bolivia in the 21st Century is featured.](#)
- [Have a good story about Bolivia and you are also a journalist? Pitch your story to Radio Ambulante.](#)
- [Lupa is a mobile app to learn Spanish at an intermediate level with stories from Radio Ambulante.](#)
- [Winners of the Citizen Diplomacy Fund 2019](#)
- [A video of the youth chapter of Cochabamba](#)

PartnersCounts Hours

Partners of the Americas wants to be able to show grantees and Donors that this organization really does make a difference In North and South America. Please log in your volunteer hours at www.partners.net./partnerscounts

Cochabamba, Bolivia

You have probably heard about Bolivia in the news lately. It has been a polarizing subject — what finally caused the protest in the streets to lead to Morales’ exile? Was it a right-wing coup? Is it voter corruption? Every day, there is another twist in the clash between Morales supporters and the current government

NC Partners of the Americas volunteerism tries to steer away from taking sides with politics but thought it would be insightful to hear from someone who has first-hand experience. Noelia Colque, the youth chapter president of Compañeros de las Américas-Cochabamba chronicles what led up to Evo Morales being forced to leave his presidency..

“It was October 20, 2019, a Sunday that would be remembered in Bolivia’s history. It was election day where Morales was unconstitutionally renominated as president.

It actually all started four years ago, February 21, 2016 when there was a constitutional referendum that did not allow the re-election of Evo Morales.. Morales did not know how to respect the vote of the Bolivians, arguing that his nomination as president was a universal right, He made strategic changes for 4 years to perpetuate being president. Morales formed an electoral tribunal, which accepted his re-application for 2019 to run again with Álvaro García Liner.

Many Bolivian citizens knew that to combat the ticket of Evo Morales Movimiento al socialismo (MAS), there was only one option and that was Carlos Mesa of the Citizen Community (CC) party, the strongest opposition for Evo Morales.

On 10/20/2019, we went to the polls for the first round of elections. The rules establish that in case no candidate reached 50% of the valid votes or - having exceeded 40% - had a difference of 10% or more over the second, the eventual slat for the presidential election would be held again on December 15, 2019, that is, there would be a second round.

Bolivia and The Generation of Pititas

By Noelia Colque Mercado, Vice-President of Cochabamba



Police station and protesters unite in Cochabamba

It was a great surprise, when at the end of the day, the voting count was cut to 83% , which generated a wave of concern and calls of election fraud.

Carlos Mesa secured a second round and Evo Morales declared himself a winner. The electoral Court (TSE) did not know how to explain this cut of the votes, which lasted 3 days, with a sudden exchange in the voting trend, in which Evo Morales was the winner with 47% of votes, eliminating the expected second round by the opposition and many Bolivians, Carlos Mesa having only 36.51%.

On Monday, October 21, citizen civic movements, declared that the city of Santa Cruz and the rest of the country would initiate a “Civic Paro” which was forceful in the city of Santa Cruz, crippling all public and private activities, thus extending to the inland.

Citizens were organized in all neighborhoods, communities and neighborhoods of Santa Cruz. Citizens united to carry out civic unemployment initially demanding a runoff. During these days, of unemployment, the protesters experienced clashes between government-affiliated citizens, and citizens in general who demanded respect for the vote, but also groups of trade unions that demanded activities resume because they needed to work. These were days of concern, because of everything that circulated on social networks, whatsapp networks, zozobra, and the the newscasts broadcast on open television and social networks.

Evo Morales then gave a speech that further infuriated the general public, mocking the form of blockades in the city, - "Block with pititas, what is that? I laughed, - "I can teach you how to block, it makes me want to do an intensive blocking course" - We're going to show you how to block, we're going to fence (cont. on next page)

Bolivia and the Generation of Pitas cont.

By Noelia Colque

" it makes me want to do an intensive blocking course" - We're going to show you how to block, we're going to fence the cities and leave them without food, " the president declared and threatened.

which generated a fury on the part of the citizens, who increased greater measures in the blockades, generating larger barricades. Therefore, in our country "the generation of the pititas" who made the blockages, started a chant:

Who gives up? No one gives up! Who gets tired? Nobody gets tired!

There was a confrontation between the Tropic of Cochabamba citizens who support Morales. Because there were strong criticisms against the National Police, Cochabamban citizens demanded the resignation of the Departmental Commander of the Police, General "Grandy". The "Civil Resistance", composed of young citizens on foot and on motorcycles, armed with sticks to protect the blockades. The Government tried to stop them, and banned the supply of gasoline and gas to all motorcycles in our city. There were criticisms of this group on both sides.

The confrontation lasted 21 days. The Civil Resistance first demanded a second vote but after many fraud allegations, the president's resignation and annulment was demanded. On November 8, the National Police joined the citizens. This was crucial because it led to the National Police in Plenary joining the pro-Mesa movement at the national level.

Now, cities were unprotected and there were strong clashes in the city of Alto, La Paz and, at the national level, destruction of public and private assets, by groups of thugs, related to MAS.

Friday night was a terror for all Bolivians and on Saturday, Bolivia was in chaos. A civil war was coming, promoted by social movements that declared the riot of the police as the worst betrayal, destroying and burning police stations nationwide. The armed forces suggested the President resign, for the pacification of the country. Citizens went out to protect and support the police and their stations to avoid further damage. One witnessed taking donations of food to the different points where they were mutineers.

During the morning of Sunday, November 10, the OAS, an international organization responsible for conducting an audit for "peace of citizens" disseminates a preliminary report at the national level given the situation facing the country, confirming irregularities in the counting of votes, which confirmed the Electoral Fraud that was denounced. He showed that there were vulnerabilities in the system that could have manipulated the results; specifically pointing out that "it is statistically unlikely that Morales has obtained a 10% difference to avoid a second round." The international observers unanimously requested that the elections be held again with the original account completely annulled.

Later, the President, in a message to all of Bolivia, declared that the elections were annulled and that he would renew the TSE to carry

out a new presidential election. Even so, civic movements demanded resignation. Bolivia was now plunged in chaos. Civil war was imminent because Evo's supporters saw the lack of police support as the ultimate betrayal and began to vandalize police stations. The armed forces asked for Morales to resign so that there would not be any more violence.

On Sunday morning, November 10, OAS, Organization of American States, released a report which confirmed voter irregularities. International observers called for another election.

Later, the President, by message to all of Bolivia, declared that the elections were annulled and that he would renew the TSE to hold a new presidential election. Yet civic movements demanded resignation.

At 5 p.m. on November 10, President Evo Morales and the vice-president renounced his presidency. This move incited a wave of SAS politicians resigning throughout the country. Bolivia celebrated the resignation of the President and celebrated a free and democratic Bolivia.

After that, Evo Morales left the country, fleeing to Mexico backed by political asylum.

We as Bolivians thought it was a new beginning. but we were wrong but we were wrong. With his departure came the chaos of clashes, encircling the cities, supplies of food were not getting to the cities. This ended only on Monday, November 25.

Meanwhile, Bolivia didn't have a president for two days. (cont. on bottom of next page)



MEDIA DURING THE 21 DAY PROTEST IN BOLIVIA



NC POA Social Media

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/>

Instagram:
https://www.instagram.com/nc_poa/

Twitter:
https://twitter.com/nc_poa

Website:
<https://ncboliviapartners.org/>

The armed forces went out to protect the cities, and initiated joint forces with the police to protect the country from further clashes and destruction generated from groups sympathetic to Evo Morales.

After that, a transitional government was formed, according to the political constitution of the State. By constitutional succession, Jeanine Añez- Vice-President of the Chamber of Senators assumed the presidency of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, and now Bolivia is waiting for new elections.



NORTH CAROLINA PARTNERS OF THE AMERICAS OFFICERS

George Wilson, President

Vacant, Vice-president

Karen Brown, Past President/ Advisor

Jessica Kinard, Secretary

Karen Brown, Interim Treasurer

Members: Includes the Executive Committee above and Hank Graden, Hank Graden, Virginia Freedman, Gail Kelley, Lori Unruh Snyder, Katharine Souris, Jacklyn Coats, Carlos Vargas, Daniel Johnson, Kitty Stalberg, Katushka Olave

Subcommittees and Chairs: (chairs are in bold)

Autism Project- **Hank Graden**

Culture and the Arts - **Daniel Johnson**, Kitty Stalberg,

Health and Clinical Practices - **Carlos Vargas**, Ben Timmons

Agriculture -**Steve Gibson**, Don Hopkins

Emergency Preparedness– Vacant

Education –**Karen Brown**, Deborah Wilkes

Environment and Natural Resources– Vacant

Sports–Vacancy

Membership – **Virginia Freedman**

(The committees Women and Development and Democratic Initiatives are not active.)

TRAVEL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

SO YOU ARE INTERESTED IN WRITING A PROJECT-BASED GRANT BUT DON'T KNOW HOW TO GET STARTED?

This year's program activities will focus on three themes that work to:

- increase English language learning;
- increase and strengthen university partnerships; and
- engage youth, and promote economic empowerment and social inclusion.

(1) If you have an idea for a project, write to the corresponding subcommittee chair. The chair will be the person that has the contacts, and helps plan the itinerary. For help with visas and the necessary paperwork, please email the president and vice-president of the Executive Board.

(2) **Travel Grants** for volunteers and community leaders to visit partner chapter to participate in skills training, give presentations and workshops, build program action plans, and participate in community projects. Travel grants are reviewed on a first come, first served basis. Travelers from Latin America are now required to apply for a J-1 visa and are no longer allowed to travel to the US on a tourist visa. Complete instructions and application are [here](#)

(3)**Teacher-in-Residence Grants** are travel grants for English teachers and administrators to share methodologies and pedagogy for teaching English as a second language, including methodologies for reaching out to marginalized communities. Travel requests are reviewed on a first come, first served basis. Travelers from Latin America are now required to apply for a J-1 visa and are no longer allowed to travel to the US on a tourist visa. Complete instructions and application are [here](#)

(4) **Public-Private Partnership Events** to bring together volunteers and community leaders from throughout the region to share effective practices and build multi-national networks that include the US. Information on upcoming events will be sent out soon. If you are interested in hosting an event on one of the priority areas, please contact Melissa .

Contacts:

Carmen Sepassi, Senior Program Officer, csepassi@partners.net

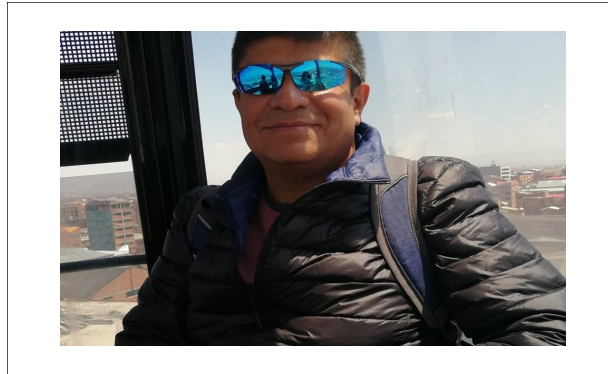
Barbara Bloch, Membership Specialist, bbloch@partners.net

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Meet Mauricio Ramirez and Learn More About Bolivian Study Abroad Sustainable Development Programs

Mauricio Ramirez has been a long-time organizer and member of the Partners of the Americas sister chapters Cochabamba and North Carolina. He has led numerous exchanges in the Farmer to Farmer program and other federal exchange programs. He has operated study abroad programs for 18 years with the Foundation for Sustainable Development (FSD). When that organization closed in October, 2018, he reorganized the program that is now called "FSD Bolivia". After the reorganization, new programs were started with the support of Northwestern University in Chicago and the Amizade organization based in Pittsburgh. <https://amizade.org/>

This past summer, students from Northwestern University and two from Rice University volunteered in Health, Environment and Urban Agriculture programs in Bolivia. A group of Agriculture students from the University of Illinois will arrive in Cochabamba in January, 2020. That project will involve working with a group of young people, mostly females, in the southern area of the Cochabamba Department. The program includes setting up greenhouses at a community center and visiting apiaries with beekeepers with whom NC Partners worked in the past. Other events on the schedule include visiting the Vitaliano trout farm near Chapare, Bolivia (tropical area) and a banana processing plant in the same area.



Mauricio Ramirez Parra visited North Carolina in November 2019

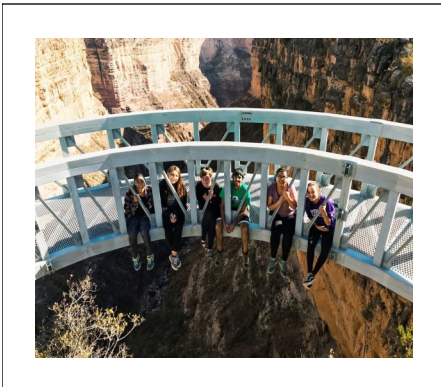
During his November visit to North Carolina, Mauricio was able to visit with representatives from 3 Technical Community Colleges- Melissa Maley; Associate Professor and Global Scholars Coordinator; Humanities Department, Guilford Technical Community College, Jamestown, NC; Suzanne LaVenture, Director of International Education and Faculty, Spanish, Davidson County Community College, Thomasville, NC; and Laura Hortal, Department Chair, Humanities, Communication, Fine Arts, and Global Education, Forsyth Technical College, Winston Salem, N.C.

Possible trips for individuals include Spanish immersion programs, international development internships, and community based participatory research internships. The Procorps programs is designed for professionals who want to contribute their time and expertise to working alongside any of the 250 international partner organizations. The program length can be two weeks to six months. Participants must have five or more years experience and match the qualifications sought by the host organization.

Group projects are possible with the programs, Group Engage, and Group Service Trips. For more information, please visit the website [here](#) or you can reach Mauricio Ramirez directly at mauriramirez@gmail.com.

- Virginia Freedman

Know of a Partners of the Americas activity that was featured in a newspaper? Check out The [Newsroom](#), specifically ["In the News"](#) a new place on the Partners of the Americas website to share your achievements. Email Communication Officer, [Rachel Falek](#) to share stories.



NC POA ANNUAL MEETING

Date: Saturday January 11, 2020

Location: NC State University, University Club, State Room,
4200 Hillsborough St, Raleigh, NC 27606

Board meeting: 10am - 12pm

Lunch for all members: 12pm - 1pm; \$25/person; a variety of menu options will be available

Annual meeting: 1pm - 4pm

Agenda: Special guests for members meeting will be Fernando Magallanes Hernández, Associate Professor, Landscape Architecture School, North Carolina State University and International Department Representatives from Forsyth Technical College, Davidson Community College, and Guilford Technical Community College.

New Cochabamban Executive Board

President :

Vol. Mónica Niño de Guzmán Murillo
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Vice-President:

Noelia Colque Mercado -
noelia.colque88@gmail.com

Secretary:

Clelia Calani Oña -
cleliaco27@yahoo.com

Treasurer:

Vol. Carlos Guamán
josecguaman@yahoo.com



From left to right: Carlos Guaman, Monica Nino De Guzman Murillo, Clelia Calani Ona, and Noelia Colque Mercado.